

its tail about 2 feet 10 inches. Full particulars about this animal in a state of captivity were also given.

Dr. Marie exhibited two malformed hoofs from a specimen of the feral cattle of the Falkland Islands. The owner, Capt. Henry Payne, stated that he shot the animal himself, and remarked that such an instance had rarely, if ever, been seen by the Falkland-Island residents*. The hoofs were a left fore and a right hind one. The outer half or segment of the fore hoof was considerably lengthened and expanded; the inner half, on the contrary, was narrow, elongated, and very convex on its upper surface. This latter, inner, enormously overgrown portion of the hoof formed a complete semicircle, and crossed above and round to the outside of the outer half. It lay like a section of a quoit over its neighbour. The outer half of the hind hoof was lengthened, but not so much flattened as the corresponding fore one; its point had a tendency to turn upwards. The inner half of the hind hoof curved outwards and over its neighbour, but somewhat differently from the front one. Instead of being quoit-shape, it twisted like a Ram's horn, the plantar surface turning forwards and outwards.

As to the cause of this peculiar growth of the hoof, Mr. Darwin remarks of the Falkland-Island Horses:—"From the softness of the ground their hoofs often grow irregularly to a great length, and this causes lameness" (Voy. of Beagle, p. 192).

A communication was read from Prof. Owen, F.R.S., on *Dinornis*, forming the fourteenth part of his series of memoirs on this subject. The present paper related chiefly to the craniology of the genus, but contained also the description of a fossil cranium from the London clay of Sheppey, in the collection of the Earl of Enniskillen, F.R.S., which Prof. Owen considered to present combinations of Dinornithic and modern Struthious characters, and characterized under the name *Dasornis londinensis*.

This paper will be printed in the Society's 'Transactions.'

The following papers were read:—

1. Descriptions of the Animals of certain Genera of *Auriculidæ*. By HARPER PEASE, C.M.Z.S.

Genus PLECOTREMA (H. & A. Ad.).

The animal of the above genus appears to have been unknown to Messrs. H. and A. Adams; and I find no description of it published elsewhere. That of *P. striata* (Phil.) presents the following characters:—Proboscis short, very broad, slightly emarginate in front, produced laterally, neck long, more so than that of *Melampus*. Foot

* See another case recorded by Mr. Slater, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 44.

entire, short, extending but a short distance beyond the aperture, bluntly rounded behind. Tentacles short, stout, cylindrical, obtuse at their ends; eyes immersed at their posterior inner bases.

Genus *BLAUNERIA* (Shuttl.).

The animal of *B. gracilis*, Pease, inhabiting the Sandwich Islands, differs so widely from that of *B. pellucida*, as described by Gundlach and Binney*, that I am disposed to regard it as a distinct genus, although the shells can scarcely be distinguished. Mr. Binney appears to have been acquainted with but one species. Four have been described, three of which are in my collection. That inhabiting the Sandwich Islands is the largest, attaining to 8 mill. in length.

The animal of *B. gracilis* is small in proportion to the size of the shell, the head projecting but slightly from the shell, and the foot extending just beyond the aperture. It is pellucid, colourless, excepting a yellowish tinge around the mouth. Tentacles short, stout, approximating at their bases. Head narrow above, and much dilated below; mouth a simple longitudinal slit. Foot small, short, bluntly rounded behind, truncate in front, divided by a transverse groove, the posterior segment being slightly the longer. Eyes conspicuous, black, immersed at the posterior bases of the tentacles.

B. pellucida is reported to have been found at Washington city in gardens. The above species is marine, or at least amphibious. Its station is similar to that of *Pedipes*, which is found in the crevices of stones overflowed at high water. I have never found *B. gracilis* on the sides or tops of stones when the tide was out, but around their bases where the water stood in little pools.

Genus *TRALIA* (Gray).

The animals of the two species of this genus inhabiting the Sandwich Islands are those of true *Melampis*; their shells are strictly *Traliae*, being furnished with three internal elevated ridges on the outer lip, not dentate or plicate near the edge.

MELAMPUS (TRALIA) SEMIPLICATA, Pease, P. Z. S. 1860, p. 146.

Animal: proboscis rather narrow, emarginate in front, finely wrinkled transversely, blackish on its upperside. Tentacles when extended elongate, cylindrical, somewhat enlarged near the base, obtuse, terminating in a slight round knob, transversely grooved, black at the tips, shading off into cinereous at their bases. Foot divided by a transverse groove at about one-third of its length; anterior segment bluntly rounded in front, concave behind; posterior segment bifid at its termination by a short slit. It moves by advancing the anterior portion of the foot, and then drawing up over it the hinder part. Its motion is regular, similar to that of the *Helices*—gliding along, when on a smooth surface, rather quickly.

* Land and Freshwater Shells of North America (Smiths. Institution), 1865, part 2, p. 20.

The animal of *Melampus parvulus* (Nutt.) agrees with the above in all respects excepting its tentacles, which are shorter and more stout in proportion.

I will take this opportunity of correcting an error in the habitat of *Melampus pusillus* (Gm.). It does not occur at the Sandwich Islands.

The above observations show that Dr. Gray's opinion, that the shells are not always a guide to the generic relations of the animal, is correct.

2. Additional Notes on the Land-Shells of the Seychelles Islands. By GEOFFREY NEVILL, C.M.Z.S.

The land-shells of the Seychelles are not only remarkably few in number, but are also, generally speaking, local. This probably arises from the nearly complete destruction at some period or another of the original flora; for at Mahé, and at most of the other islands we visited, it was only on the extreme summit of one of the highest passes in the former, and on the top of the mountain at Silhouette, that I could perceive anything like a peculiar or ancient flora. Praslin, it is true, has a vast number of the Coco-de-mer trees and many shrubs, some of which may possibly prove peculiar and of interest to the botanist; but vegetation seems to thrive little better under them than under the ordinary Cocoa-nut or Vacoa Palm. It seemed to me evident that the flora at Mahé must originally have been very different. Large fires have probably been the chief cause of the destruction; and the cutting down the timber, whether for firewood or to plant Cocoa-nuts, must also have had considerable effect, and have enabled the Pine-apple, Cinnamon, Bamboo, &c., and even possibly some of the common Mauritian ferns (*Gleichenia* &c.) to obtain a firm footing. These introduced plants now cover large tracts of country, killing all the more delicate indigenous flowers and ferns. The first mentioned, more especially, is abundant in most of the islands, and grows almost up to the tops of the highest mountains. Where the large timber has been thus destroyed, the water, almost as soon as it falls, forms for itself channels, and, running off from the soil, causes it in a short time to become dry and more or less arid. This is clearly perceptible both at Mauritius and Bourbon. In such situations there are no shells to be found, excepting, indeed, some two or three species, such as *Achatina fulica* &c. By searching, however, where the trees have been recently cut down, one finds quantities of dead shells, evidently killed by want of moisture and by exposure to the tropical sun.

Out of the meagre list of the land-shells I found at the Seychelles, I believe a considerable number to have been introduced. It does not appear difficult to account for this when one considers that such has been the case with a large number of the commonest trees and